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REVIEWS OF RECENT LITERATURE.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

A Study of Hawaiian Skulls.¹ — The collection studied contains sixty-five crania. One series is from the lava caves and represents the dominant race of the Hawaiian Islands, and the other is from the sands of the coast where the common people were buried. Dr. Allen states that it is impossible to say to what extent the differences between the two series are due to differences of caste, and how much is due to the fact that the coast series is more recent than that from the caves, and has been more affected by imported diseases. The number of skulls in each group is comparatively small, so that on the whole the differences shown are of doubtful importance. The value of the paper lies in the methods employed rather than in the contrasts shown between the two types of crania. The descriptive method is given much less prominence in this study than in the author's memoir on the Crania from the mounds of Florida. It is stated in the preface that the method by measurements, "all things considered," is the most fruitful. The differences in anatomical variation are expressed in percentages rather than by perplexing Greek compounds.

A few of the dimensions are charted on quadrille paper by the "terrace" method of graphic delineation, an innovation in craniometry. The advantages of broken over curved lines are obvious. We believe that other devices in common use by statisticians might be employed with advantage by craniologists, *e.g.*, the average, minimum, maximum, and relative amount of variation may be clearly and easily shown by simple bar diagrams. Craniology concerns itself largely with the study of variation, and the numerical expression of this, while precise, conveys little meaning to the uninitiated.

Dr. Allen's paper emphasizes the fact that there are other problems than those of race for the consideration of the craniologist — in the closing words of the author: "I remain of the opinion that the interest attached to the study of the human skull is not confined to attempting to limit race, but to the study of the effects of nutritive and even morbid processes upon the skull form."

¹ Harrison Allen, *A Study of Hawaiian Skulls*. *Trans. of the Wagner Free Inst. of Sci.* Philadelphia, 1898.